

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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DRAFTED BY ARA-LA/PAN:EJNADEAU/KGUTHRIE

APPROVED BY ARA-LA/PAN:EJNADEAU

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 033495

CANALNEGS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, PN

SUBJECT: U.S. PANAMA TREATY NEGOTIATIONS: ACTIVITIES
REPORT

I.

THIS IS MESSAGE NO. 1 FROM THE DEPARTMENT APPLICABLE TO
THE FEBRUARY 1977 NEGOTIATIONS IN PANAMA, DESPATCHED FROM
ARA/PAN AT 5:45 P.M. ON FEBRUARY 14.

II. BRIEFING ITEMS

A. MEDIA COVERAGE -- SO FAR ONLY SUBSTANTIAL PRESS
COVERAGE OF NEGOTIATIONS HAS BEEN BY NY TIMES, WHICH
DEVOTED TWO INSIDE-PAGE ARTICLES AND LEAD EDITORIAL TO
PANAMA ISSUE. EDITORIAL SAID TIME HAD COME TO RESOLVE
CANAL PROBLEM BUT DECISIVE ARENA WAS NOT PANAMA BUT U.S.
PUBLIC AND CONGRESS.

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ARRIVAL REMARKS OF BUNKER AND LINOWITZ REPORTED BY WIRE
SERVICES, ESPECIALLY STATEMENTS CONCERNING CANAL EMPLOYEES,
NEED TO ASSURE CONTINUING CANAL AVAILABILITY AND SECURITY,
AND IMPORTANCE THAT BOTH SIDES MUSTER POLITICAL WILL TO
CONCLUDE A TREATY. ALSO HIGHLIGHTED WAS BUNKER STATEMENT
THAT PRESIDENT, IN LAST WEEK'S WHITE HOUSE MEETING WITH
NEGOTIATORS, REPEATED HIS INTENTION TO COMPLETE NEGOTIA-

TIONS AT EARLY DATE. NEGOTIATORS' DEPARTURE FROM
WASHINGTON CARRIED ON SUNDAY EVENING TV NEWSCASTS.

B. DRUMMOND CASE RECEIVED LITTLE COVERAGE EXCEPT IN
MIAMI HERALD. WASHINGTON COVERAGE LIMITED TO SATURDAY
POST STORY AT BOTTOM OF COMIC PAGE AND SMALL ITEM ON
SUNDAY. KINSOLVING QUESTIONED SPOKESMAN ON DRUMMOND
AT MONDAY PRESS BRIEFING AND WAS INFORMED EMBASSY
PANAMA WAS DELIVERING A NOTE RE INCIDENT TO GOP.

C. CONGRESSIONAL ITEMS -- THIRTY HOUSE MEMBERS (19
REPUBLICANS AND 11 DEMOCRATS) HEADED BY REP. JOHN MYERS
(R-IND.), IN FEBRUARY 8 LETTER TO SECRETARY VANCE
DECLARED OPPOSITION TO ANY AGREEMENT LEADING EVENTUALLY
TO RELINQUISHMENT OF SOVEREIGN RIGHT OF CONTROL OVER
CANAL. LETTER NOTED "URGENCY" OF SITUATION IN PANAMA AND
"NEED FOR EARLY PACT ON FUTURE CONTROL" BUT CONCLUDED
NATIONAL INTEREST REQUIRES US TO "MAINTAIN OUR
PRESENT POLICY RE PANAMA CANAL AND CANAL ZONE".

D. STATE DEPARTMENT CONGRESSIONAL STRATEGY PAPER
COMPLETED AND FORWARDED TO SECRETARY MONDAY.

III. ACTION ITEMS.

A. OAS -- AMBASSADOR PITY HAS PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM FOR
2/16 REGULAR SESSION OF OAS PERMANENT COUNCIL WHICH
WOULD PLACE ON THE RECORD THE TEXT OF THE BOYD/VANCE
JOINT STATEMENT OF 1/31/77 AND THE 1974 STATEMENT OF
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PRINCIPLES. THIS APPEARS TO BE ROUTINE PITY INITIATIVE.
IF YOU HAVE ANY INDICATION THAT THIS IS NOT THE CASE OR
DESIRE THAT WE MAKE ANY STATEMENT, PLEASE ADVISE.
VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS SUMMARIES, CANALS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE033495
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: LA/PAN:EJNADEAU/KGUTHRIE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
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